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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RECORD

NV-050-9-33

Vegetative Disposal of Green Cut Firewood

Prepared by: Richard A. Orr
Range Conservationist

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Bureau of Land Management
Las Vegas District
Las Vegas, Nevada

September, 1978

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I. Introudction

In recent years, heating costs for homes have risen sharply. As a result many people have started to use firewood as a supplemental source of heat. This increased use has presented a problem in supplying adequate amounts of firewood. Dead and down wood is becoming scarce and is not found in large enough quantities to support individual or commercial cutting operations. Because of this scarcity of dead and down wood, several people (both commercial and individual cutters) have requested that we authorize green firewood cutting.

Although we have the authority to sell green cut wood as outlined in EAR 5000; 27-050-4-16, Vegetative Materials Disposals, our current policy only permits the cutting of dead or down wood. Our purpose in this project is to outline procedures and guidelines for the cutting of green firewood products.

This type of action will accomplish four major objectives.

1. It will meet the stated public demand for green firewood.

2. It will facilitate better management of the wood products program.

3. It will aid in program application of habitat manipulation and range improvement.

4. It will reduce losses of productive grazing land & wildlife habitat to pinyon/juniper encroachment which has resulted from extensive fire suppression programs.

II. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

A. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to allow sales of green firewood on selected sites within the three following locations: (see map)

Area No.

1. T. 4 S., R. 70 E., portions of Secs. 13, 14, 23, and 24 for personal permits, 10 cords or less, (approximately 647 acres).

2. T. 4 S., R. 71 E., portions of Secs. 17, 18, 19, and 20 for commercial permits up to 400 cords each, (approximately 661 acres).

3. T. 4 S., R. 71 E., portions of Secs. 9 and 16 to be used as a commercial permit back-up area, (approximately 265 acres).

Cutting will be by special permit only. These sites will be selectively cut for pinyon, mixed pinyon and juniper, or juniper firewood. The outside boundary of each site will be flagged to give an irregular-shaped and non-continuous pattern. Clear cutting of small internal blocks may, under special conditions, occur but understory vegetation should not be disturbed. A detailed map of an individual's cutting area will be provided with each authorized sale. All cuts will be followed by an on-the-ground inspection to check compliance with stipulations and to determine if any additional action is necessary for restoration of the cut area. Larger sales will be frequently inspected during and immediately after completion of the cut.

The following criteria were used for selecting these proposed cutting areas, and should be used for selection of any future sale sites.

a. Topography - Sites should not exceed 30% slope.

b. Rainfall - If possible, sites with more than 10"/year rainfall should be selected to reduce the amount of initial moisture stress incurred by the remaining vegetation. This in turn, should increase long-term post cut recovery period vegetative production.

c. Soils - Soils with light to moderate erosion potentials should be selected. Erosion potential, however, is not as critical on sites where only overstory vegetation is removed. The prime consideration in selecting soil types should be moisture holding capacity. Fair to good moisture holding capacities increase the chances of rapid recovery of cut areas.

d. Access - A good condition, regularly maintained road runs through these three locations. Any access routes off the main road to individual cutting areas will be marked. Marking will take place prior to the beginning of any cutting operations.

B. Alternative 1

Alternative #1 includes the same location, steps, and procedures as listed in the Proposed Action with the additional action of clear cut removal of all overstory vegetation and, where deemed necessary after an on-the-ground inspection, drilling or broadcast seeding the cut over locations to grass and browse. Reseeding is applicable only in areas with suitable precipitation, moisture availability, and soil types. If native vegetation is adequate, reseeding will not take place.

C. Alrernative 2

Alternative #2 is to disallow green cutting and to maintain the present district firewood program as it stands.

III. Description of Existing Environment

For an indepth District-wide analysis of the existing environment, refer to the Environmental Analysis Digest, Addendum 1 of EAR 5000; 27-050-4-16, Vegetative Materials Disposal. Site specific information is given below.

A. Non-Living Components

1. Air

Air quality at the proposed site is good. Low local population and the remoteness of the project area combine to reduce the amount of hydrocarbons and oxides introduced into the atmosphere. Temperatures are moderate due to high average elevation (above 6000'). Precipitation is good (12-16') creating more vegetation. This, in turn, reduces the amount of blown dust and other particulates which may be present.

2. Land

The proposed site is in rolling mountain terrain with an average elevation of 6000 feet. Slopes may vary from 2% to as much as 50%. Soils are of two major types:

a. The Itca Cederan Association - These soils have a high clay content, 25% rock outcrops present, stony surface and depth generally less than 20 inches over bedrock. These soils are unsuitable for range seeding or extensive mechanical treatment. Removal of the tree overstory should be acceptable if steep slopes are avoided. Erosion potential is moderate to severe. Stony surfaces, slope, and low moisture availability are the limiting factors in reseeding or extensive mechanical treatment.

b. The Cederan Association - Soils appear to be low in iron, with a mixed rock and clay composition and have low water holding capacity. Rooting depth is 10-20" over bedrock. Erosion potential is moderate to severe. The same limitations hold true for this association as those presented above for the Itca Cederan.

3. Water

Precipitation at the project site varies from 12" - 16" per year. Shallow depths to bedrock (20" or less) make ground water fairly inaccessable. Ground water at the nearby Brown Well, project #0022, is 175' deep. Runoff is rapid

III. Description of Existing Environment

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and flash flooding is common. Because of the high elevation, temperatures are lower and as a result, evapotranspiration rates are less.

B. Living Components

1. Plants

Three vegetative types are present in the proposed project area (see map, Addendum #1). These are:

a. Utah Juniper (Juniperus osteosperma) - Bitterbrush (Purshia tridentata); 12% density

b. Utah Juniper (Juniperus osteosperma) - Black Sagebrush (Artemesia nova); 11% density

c. Utah Juniper (Juniperus osteosperma) - Bitterbrush (Purshia tridentata) 6% density

The major plant species, found represented in varying amounts in these three types, are:

Pinyon Pine - (Pinus monophylla)
Utah Juniper - (Juniperus osteosperma)
Blue Grama - (Bouteloua gracilis)
Nevada Bluegrass - (Poa nevadensis)
Indian Ricegrass - (Oryzopsis hymenoides)
Needle-and-threed - (Stipa comata) trace amounts
Annual forbs - (numerous species)
Black sagebrush - (Artemesia nova)
Bitterbrush - (Purshia tridentata)
Big sagebrush - (Artemesia tridentata)
Douglas Rabbitbrush - (Chrysothamnus visidiflorus)
Gambel oak - (Quercus gambelii)

No threatened or endangered plants are known to occur in the area.

Seven cordwood production transects were taken in the project area. These transects were run using Dr. Meeuwig's Line Intersect Method (U.S.D.S. Forest Service Research Note INT-242; March 1978). Both Pinyon and Juniper were sampled but only Pinyon was used to establish the approximate cords per acre production figure. (see Addendum 2). All production estimates have been based on this figure. Juniper has not been considered in area totals.

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Results of these transects show area 1 to be capable of producing approximately 2000 cords, area 2 is capable of producing approximately 2000+ cords, and area 3 (an additional backup area) shows a reserve of approximately 800 cords of wood.

(Note: This sampling method is designed for both permanent transect locations or for randomly selected, non-permanent locations. All transects were run on a random, non-permanent basis.)

2. Animals

A large variety of bird species may be found in this area. No threatened or endangered species are known to nest here, and if present are only seasonal residents. (see Addendum 3).

Several small rodents and mammals are also present (i.e. mice, voles, rabbits, skunks, etc.) but should not be effected by this action. All of the above mentioned species are prolific reproducers and are highly adaptable to man-made alterations to their environment. None are classified as threatened or endangered.

Reptiles, such as rattlesnakes and a variety of lizards, are also present. Their habitat requirements are met by leaving the lower growing shrubs and grasses.

Carnivores such as the coyote (Canis latrans) and the bobcat (Lynx rufus) are common in this area. These 2 species are highly adaptable but are also very shy of man.

This area is in a mule deer winter range. Removing the overstory and opening the stand, especially if done in irregular shaped patterns, creates increased variety in a plant community's special diversity, edge effect, lateral uniformity, and horizontal uniformity. In the long run, these factors are beneficial for deer as well as for other species of wildlife. By breaking up the continuity of the areas vegetation patterns an increase in overall habitat variety will occur.

3. Livestock and Wild Horse and Burro

The project site is outside of any recognized wild horse areas.

The proposed cutting area is found in the approximate center of the Enterprise Allotment. There are 1261 available AUMs in this allotment which are equally divided between 3 operators. The adjudicated season of use is from May 1 - October 31. Any possible increases or decrease in grazing privileges as a result of this action cannot be assessed at this time.

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C. Human Values

This area is in a VRM Class 3. Any action occurring in this class should be designed to allow only moderate visual changes to occur in form, line, color, and texture of the existing environment. The proposed site is in Wilderness Inventory Unit #NV-050-OIR-25 and has been recommended as being dropped from further study due to excessive roads and other intrusions. This activity should have no additional impact on the naturalness of the site. This recommendation is still in the Public Involvement Process and will not be finalized until September 30, 1979. Green firewood cutting is currently included in the Caliente MFP 1 recommended 1.5.

Due to the extensive acreage involved, archaeological clearances will be conducted on a permit by permit basis. A cultural resource stipulation will be included as a part of the permit itself.

IV. Analysis of Proposed Action and Alternatives

A. Proposed Action

1. Environmental Impacts

a. Anticipated Impacts

(1) Destruction and trampling of vegetative cover caused by vehicular travel off of established roads and marked access routes.

(2) Compaction or increased erosion of soils due to increased human and vehicle traffic.

(3) Increase in air pollutents caused by increased vehicular traffic.

(4) Visual intrusions as a result of breaking up the existing continuity and texture of vegetative communities.

(5) Road damage during winter months as a result of travel by vehicles carrying heavy loads.

(6) Littering in and around the site during any cutting operations.

(7) Noise and human travel disturbing wildlife during cutting operations.

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(5) Road damage during winter months as a result of travel by vehicles carrying heavy loads.

(6) Littering in and around the site during any cutting operations.

(7) Noise and human travel disturbing wildlife during cutting operations.

(8) If wilderness clearance is not accepted as proposed (see Inventory Unit Recommendation NV-050-OIR-25) wilderness character of the site will be severely disturbed by this action.

Beneficial impacts:

(9) Enhanced spacial diversity, edge effect, and habitat variety as a result of breaking up the continuity of the area's vegetion patterns.

(10) Improved management of the forest products resource through increased control opportunities and more systematic application of programs.

(11) Removing the pinyon/juniper overstory from these areas should allow the grasses and shrubs to grow without hinderance or allelopathic interference, thus increasing available forage for wildlife as well as livestock. (An allelopath is a chemical toxin produced from both decomposition of foliage and chemical excrement from roots. These toxins limit or inhibit growth of any other plant species.)

b. Possible Mitigating or Enhancing Measures

(1) All vehicular travel should be restricted to established roads and trails, and to flagged access routes.

(2) To minimize soil erosion potential, slash should be left in place and unpiled. Understory vegetation should be left undisturbed unless the site has been deemed suitable for mechanical treatment and/or reseeding. Vehicles will be restricted to roads, trails, and flagged access routes.

(3) A maximum of four personal cutters and/or two commercial cutters should be allowed in the area at any given time. This should minimize the amount of additional pollutants introduced into the atmosphere as well as minimize the effects of noise and traffic on wildlife activity and movement (see impact #7).

(4) To minimize effects on scenic values, buffer zones 100' wide should be left on either side of major roadways. Cutting areas will be layed out in abstract, irregular, noncontinuous patterns.

(8) If wilderness clearcuts is not accepted as proposed (see Inventory Unit Recommendation WV-020-OIE-23) wilderness character of the area will be severely disturbed by this action.

Beneficial Impacts:

(9) Enhanced special diversity, edge effect, and habitat variety as a result of breaking up the continuity of the area's vegetation patterns.

(10) Improved management of the forest products resource through increased control opportunities and systematic application of programs.

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(1) All vehicular travel should be restricted to established roads and trails, and to flagged access routes.

(2) To minimize soil erosion potential, slash should be left in place and unpiled. Undisturbed vegetation should be left undisturbed unless the site has been deemed suitable for mechanical treatment and/or reseeding. Vehicles will be restricted to roads, trails, and flagged access routes.

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(4) To minimize effects on scenic values, buffer zones 100' wide should be left on either side of major roadways. Cutting areas will be layed out in abstract, irregular, nonconterminous patterns.

(5) Road damage can be minimized by not allowing cutting during periods when snow is on the ground or when roads and soils are muddy. This should not adversely effect use of the area because persons cutting green firewood are more likely to work during summer and early fall.

(6) Require cutters to pick up and remove all litter and trash in and around the cutting area.

c. Recommendations for Mitigation or Enhancement

It is recommended that the Mitigating and Enhancing Measures stated in Section b above be accepted as permit stipulations. Two additional stipulations should also be added.

(1) Trees should be cut below the lowest limb in such a manner as to kill the tree.

(2) Stumps should be cut 6" or less in height and flat across the top to eliminate possibilities of injury to animals, men, or equipment on sharp stobs.

d. Residual Impacts

Some minor soil losses may occur. These can be minimized by leaving slash and not removing the understory vegetation (in other locations with more appropriate soil types, losses can be minimized by mechanical treatment followed by reseeding).

Noise disturbance to wildlife is also a residual impact. This disturbance is minor, but will be present during each cutting operation.

The only other residual impact is the removal of the pinyon and juniper overstory. The effect of this would not be permanent. As seen from chainings near this site, reinvasion of cut areas will begin to occur in 8-10 years, and will be well established in 15-17 years. In the meantime, enhancements to livestock grazing and wildlife habitat far outweigh the loss of overstory species. As a secondary consideration, pinyon/juniper types are historically known for their homogeneity and lack of variety. Removal of the overstory sets succession back to a lower serial stage, thus increasing variety and spacial diversity of the plant community. The overall results would be beneficial to wildlife and livestock.

e. Ecological Interrelationships

The area in question is typical of the southern pinyon/juniper belt. Plants are the primary producers and animals depend on these plants for food and cover.

2. Relationships Between Short-Term Use and Long-Term Productivity

Short-term use will be benefited through increased availability of forest products and through more controlled management of the existing forestry program.

Long-term productivity is enhanced through increases in available grass and browse for livestock and wildlife, renewed forest products after regeneration, and increased spacial diversity and habitat variety.

3. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments

The only possible commitments in this catagory may be minor losses of soil due to erosion. These losses will be minimized if the proposed mitigating measures are followed. The tree overstory is self-renewing and should reestablish itself within 15 years.

B. Alternative #1

Alternative #1 is the same as the proposed action with the additional action of clearcut removal of all overstory vegetation and reseeding the area to grass and browse if deemed necessary after an on-the-ground inspection.

Narrative

Although precipitation is adequate for reseeding, soils in this area are not suited to such intensive activity (see Section III, A, 2). Soils are too easily erodable to risk removing all overstory vegetation.

This alternative is very viable and should be considered on carefully selected sites which are better suited for extensive treatment.

C. Alternative #2

Alternative #2 consists of not allowing green cutting to occur and continuing the present cutting and vegetative sales program.

Narrative

This alternative constitutes no action and therefore, does not present any environmental impacts or commitments which are not already incurred in the present program as authorized in EAR 5000; 27-050-4-16 Vegetative Materials Disposals. This alternative fails to provide a demanded forest product.

V. Persons, Groups, and Government Agencies Consulted

Recent unsolicited calls have been received from both individual and commercial concerns requesting such a program.

VI. Intensity of Public Interest

Interest for initiation of a green wood program has grown in the last few years. Fuel and heating bills have risen to the point that people are requesting additional forest products to help reduce the cost of home heating. Several calls are received each month expressing interest in such a program on both an individual and commercial scale. Demand is adequate for initiating and maintaining this type of program.

VII. Participating Staff

Terry Sodorff - Range Conservationist,
District Archaeological Technician
Mark Maley - Wildlife Biologist
Kenneth Detweiler - Wildlife Biologist
Donald Buck - Soil Scientist
Phillip V. Range - Area Manager

VIII. Signatures

5/11/79
Date

Richard A. Orr, Range Conservationist

Recommended for Approval by:

5/29/79
Date

Bruce E. Flinn
for Cheryl Hoke, Environmental Specialist

6/13/79
Date

Frank E. Bingham, Chief,
Division of Resource Management

5/18/79
Date

William D. McNally, Acting Area Manager

Approved by:

6/13/79
Date

for John S. Boyles, District Manager

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Phillip V. Range - Area Manager

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Date

Richard A. Orr, Range Conservationist

Recommended for Approval by:

5/29/79
Date

for Cheryl Boke, Environmental Coordinator

5/18/79
Date

Frank E. Bingham, Chief,
Division of Resource Management

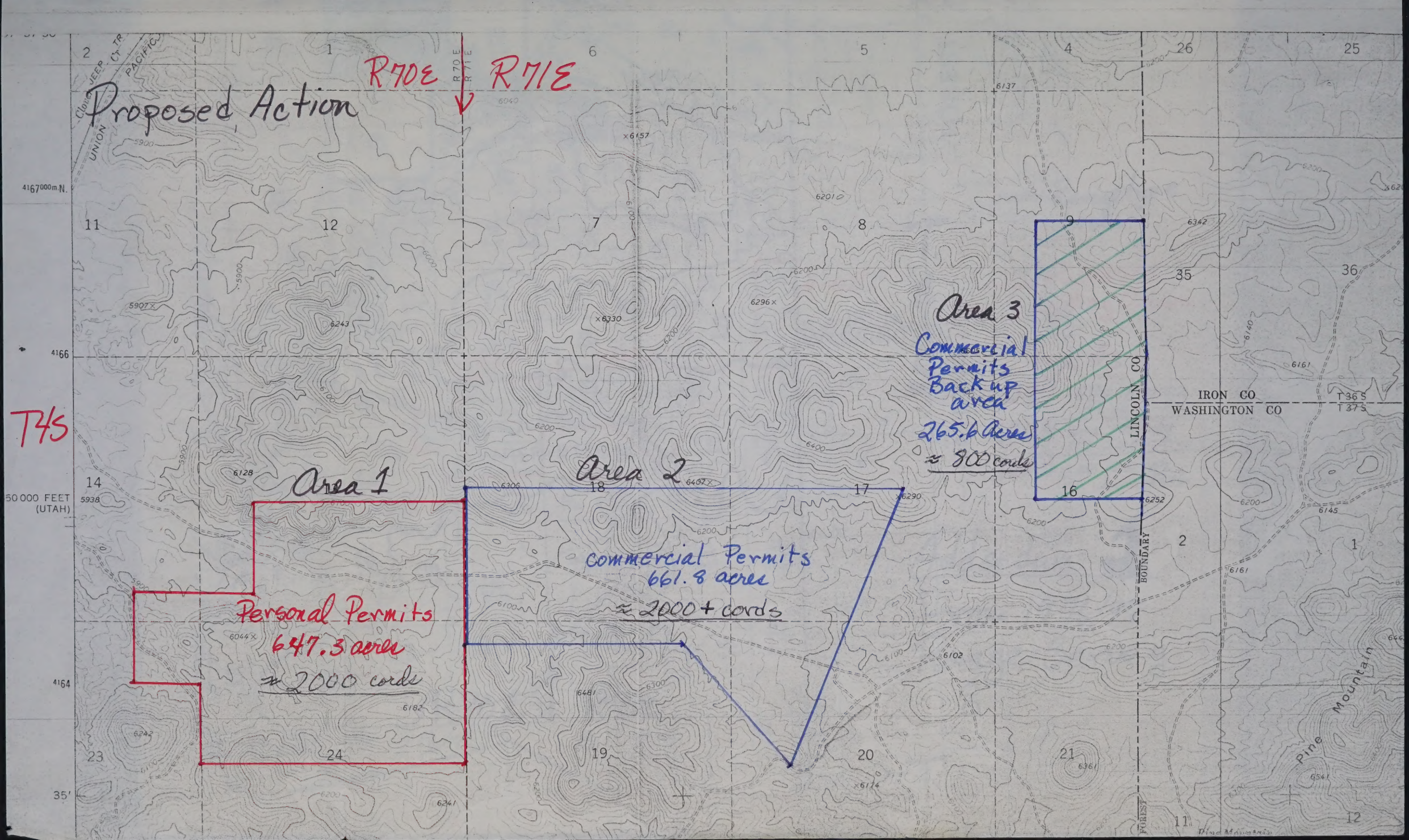
5/18/79
Date

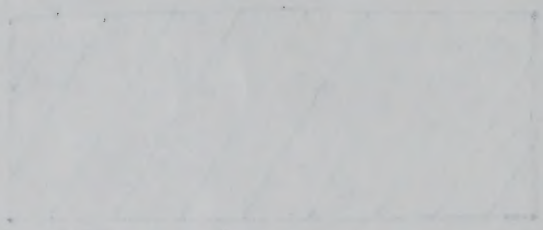
William D. McNally, Acting Area Manager

Approved by:

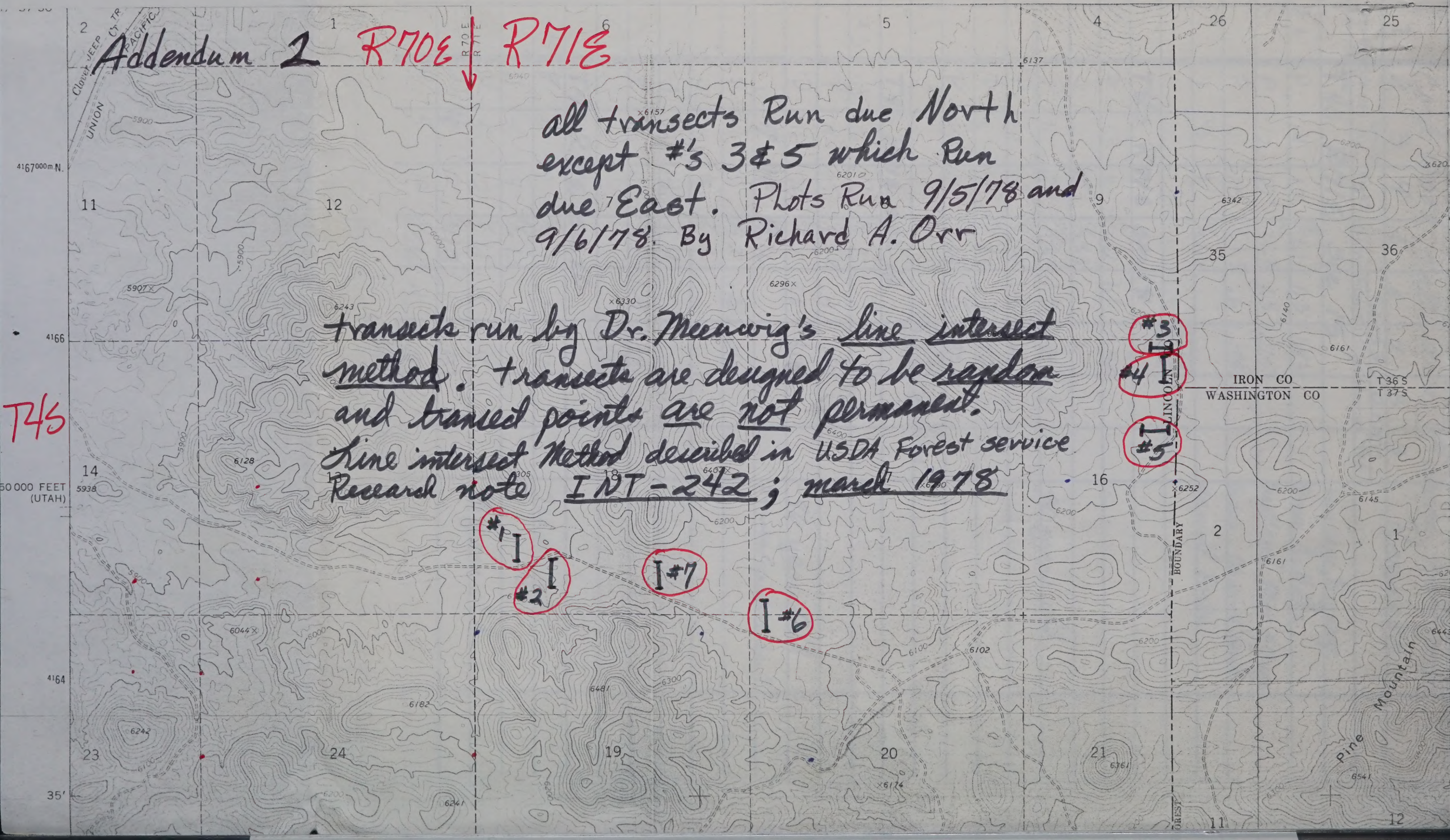
5/23/79
Date

John S. Doyles, District Manager


Proposed Action
R70E
R71E
T4S
Area 1
Personal Permits
647.3 acres
≈ 2000 cords
Area 2
Commercial Permits
661.8 acres
≈ 2000+ cords
Area 3
Commercial
Permits
Backup
area
265.6 acres
≈ 800 cords
LINCOLN CO
BOUNDARY
IRON CO
WASHINGTON CO
T36S
T37S
Pine Mountain
FOREST
4167000m N.
4166
4164
50 000 FEET
(UTAH)



Rangetype Lines
Proposed Cutting Areas
type #'s
247 BB2 1031-02 09 Juos-Putr
248 G35 1031-08 09 Juos-Arno
253 G34 1031-07 09 Juos-Putr
Addendum 1
From 1976/77 Range Servay
AREA 1
AREA 2
Area 3
ENTERPRISE
248
247
253
T. 4 S.
R70E
R71E
IRON
WASHINGTON
LINCOLN CO.
NATIONAL FOREST
DIXIE
NEVADA
UTAH
BEAVE
Lafes Reservoir
Crestline
Pine Mtn. Reservoir
Tunnel Spring
Acoma Resvr.


Addendum 2
R70E
R71E
all transects Run due North
except #'s 3 & 5 which Run
due East. Plots Run 9/5/78 and
9/6/78. By Richard A. Orr
transects run by Dr. Meewig's line intersect
method. transects are designed to be random
and transect points are not permanent.
Line intersect Method described in USDA Forest service
Research note INT-242; march 1978
#1
#2
#3
#4
#5
#6
#7
T45
IRON CO
WASHINGTON CO
T36S
T37S
LINCOLN CO
BOUNDARY
Pine Mountain
4167000m N.
4166
4164
50 000 FEET
(UTAH)

Cord wood sales area — Browns well area

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Remarks
Strata	Species	stump Dia.	Hight	Crown Factor	Cords/acre Uncorrect	Per year	Juniper	Tot	
	T4S R7IE Sec 13								Low sage, Big sage
#1	P	14	17'	15/15 1.1	1.3	1.43			Brome, Gallata
	P	12	21'	13/12 1.3	1.5	1.15			Scattered Purs & Qnga
	P	11	15'	13/12 1.3	.6	.78			Gusa, Ch.vi-l and
	J	4/3	9'	5/3 1.6					annual Forbs
						3.36	cds/acre		
	T4S R7IE sec 18								
#2	P	13	16	14/12 1.2	1.1	1.32			
	J	6	15	10/3 3.3	.				
	P	11	20	20/15 1.3	1.3	1.69			80 years old
	P	12	19	19/12 1.5	1.2	1.80			
	P	6	12	8/6 1.3	.2	.26			
	P	10	15	11/11 1.4	.5	.90			
						5.97	cds/acre		
	T4S R7IE sec 16								
#3	J	6	7	6/6 1					
	P	8	15	15/13 1.2	.4	.48			
	P	14	25	24/11 1	3.0	3.00			-96 years Old
	J	7	14	19/6 1.6					2 trunks/equivelant dia. 7"
	P	4	15	11/2 2	.2	.40			.
	J	8	13	3/3 1					
	J	12	14	13/11 1.1					
	P	13	21	16/11 1.1	1.8	1.98			
						5.86	cds/acre		
	T4S R7IE sec 16								
#4	B	5	7	5/5 1	.1	.10			2 saplings < 3" dia
	J	8	14	11/11 1.3					
	P	5	12	10/9 1.1	.1	.11			48 years old
	P	4	12	5/4 1.3	.1	.13			
	P	5	12	5/3 1.6	.1	.16			
						.50	cds/acre		

Cordwood sale area/Browns well area

1'	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Remarks
transect	Species	stump Dia.	Hight	Crown Factor	Cords/acre Uncorrected	Pinyon	Juniper	Tot	
	T43 R71E sec 16								
#5	J	5	12	5/4 1.3					2 Pinyon saplings
	P	12	26	14/6 1.1	2.4	2.64			
	P	15	29	25/5 1.1	3.4	3.74			103 years old
	J	8	14	12/6 1					
	T43 R71E Sec 17 & 20					(6.38) cds/acre			
#6	P	7	15	12/8 1.3	.3	.39			59 years old
	P	14	25	21/5 1.3	2.7	3.51			87 years old
	J	10	22	14/6 1.1					
	J	12	17	14/10 1.4					
	P	6	12	6/4 2.0	.2	.40			2 Pinyon saplings
						(4.30) cds/acre			
	T43 R71E sec 18								
#7	P	11	17	12/2 1	.3	.8			
	J	11	13	10/10 1					
	P	4	15	14/13 1.1	.4	.44			1 Pinyon sapling
						(.52) cds/acre			

Random Plots / not Permanent

____Northern Waterthrush-R, Sh
____MacGillivray's Warbler-G, R
____Yellowthroat-A, G, R
____Yellow-breasted Chat-G, R, C
____Wilson's Warbler-G, W, R
____Hooded Warbler-Ac
____American Redstart-G, W, R
____Painted Redstart-Ac, W
____Parula Warbler-Ac
____Worm-eating Warbler-Ac
____Cerulean Warbler-Ac

WEAVER FINCHES

____House Sparrow-T, O

MEADOW LARKS, BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES

____Western Meadow Lark-O, Sa
____Yellow-headed Blackbird-A, O
____Red-winged Blackbird-A, O
____Hooded Oriole-Ac, G, W
____Bullock's Oriole-O, R, T, G
____Scott's Oriole-O, Ch, W
____Brewer's Blackbird-Sh, O, T
____Brown-headed Cowbird-O, G, R
____Orchard Oriole-Ac, T, G
____Rusty Blackbird-Ac, G, R
____Boat-tailed Grackle-Ac, R, G, T

TANAGERS

____Western Tanager-W
____Hepatic Tanager-W
____Summer Tanager-G, W, R

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS and BUNTINGS

____Cardinal-Ac, G, R, W
____Rose-breasted Grosbeak-Ac, W
____Black-headed Grosbeak-Ch, G, W, R
____Blue Grosbeak-Ch, G, R
____Indigo Bunting-Ac
____Lazuli Bunting-Sa, Ch, R
____Dickcissel-Ac, O
____Evening Grosbeak-W
____Cassin's Finch-W
____House Finch-Wi
____Pine Siskin-W
____American Goldfinch-G, R
____Lesser Goldfinch-O, Ch, W, R
____Lawrence's Goldfinch-Ac, W, Ch
____Red Crossbill-G, W
____Green-tailed Towhee-Sa, G, W, R,Ch
____Rufous-sided Towhee-Ch, W
____Abert's Towhee-R, Ch
____Lark Bunting-O, Ch, R
____Savannah Sparrow-A, Sh, O
____Grasshopper Sparrow-O
____Vesper Sparrow-O, Sa
____Lark Sparrow-O, G
____Cassin's Sparrow-Ac, O
____Black-throated Sparrow-O
____Sage Sparrow-O, Sa, Ch
____Slate-colored Junco-W
____Oregon Junco-Ch, W
____Gray-headed Junco-W
____Tree Sparrow-Ch, R
____Chipping Sparrow-Ch, W, G
____Brewer's Sparrow-Sa, Ch
____Black-chinned Sparrow-Sa, Ch, W
____Harris' Sparrow-Ac, W
____White-crowned Sparrow-Ch, G, T
____Golden-crowned Sparrow-Ch, G
____White-throated Sparrow-Ac, W, Ch
____Fox Sparrow-Ch, G, W, R
____Lincoln's Sparrow-G, R
____Song Sparrow-A, G,, R
____Purple Finch-Ac, W
____Lapland Longspur-Ac, O

NOTES

Date _____ Total _____

Observer (s) _____

Weather _____ Time _____

BLM Library
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 85, OC-521
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225

Prairie Falcon

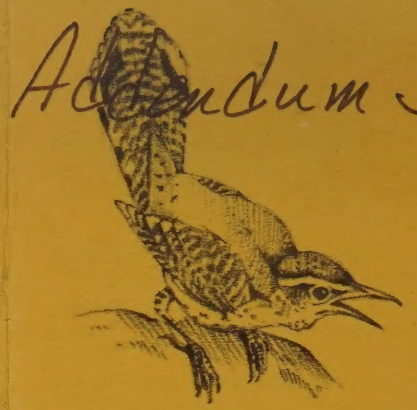
Roadrunner

"THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND"

and so is the Wildlife

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Las Vegas District Office
November 1970

Addendum 3



Rock Wren

BIRDS

LAS VEGAS BLM DISTRICT

Located in southern Nevada, the Las Vegas BLM District includes Esmeralda, Clark and southern Nye and Lincoln Counties. Plant communities in this vast 9½ million acre public area range from desert scrub near Death Valley to pseudo-alpine atop 11,912 foot Mount Charleston. Both Mohave and Great Basin Deserts are represented.

Bird life is a greatly varied composite. Waterfowl and shorebirds are found in association with the Colorado River Systems, the Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge (managed by the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife), and the Overton Wildlife Management Area (managed by the Nevada Department of Fish and Game).

Isolated mountain ranges in the desert often surprise bird watchers with birds common to northern climes. Southern Nevada hosts many wintering bird species from northern areas.

BIRD CHECKLIST

Las Vegas BLM District

The following bird list contains 326 species which have been recorded in the District. The column at the left is provided for checking species observed.

General habitat types where the species is most likely to occur are indicated by:
A-aquatic; Sh-shores, beaches, flats; O-open, fields, deserts, prairies; G-groves, thickets; Ch-chaparral, brushy; Sa-sagebrush; W-woodlands; R-riparian; C-cliffs, canyons; T-towns, Wi-widespread; Ac-accidental; *-introduced.

Birds printed in box are rare or endangered in the United States.

This list was compiled through cooperative assistance from the Nevada Department of Fish and Game, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the Las Vegas Bird Club.

LOONS
- ____Common Loon-A
- ____Red-throated Loon-A

GREBES
- ____Western Grebe-A
- ____Horned Grebe-A
- ____Eared Grebe-A
- ____Pied-billed Grebe-A

PELICANS
- ____White Pelican-A
- ____Brown Pelican-Ac, A

CORMORANTS
- ____Double-crested Cormorant-A

HERONS & BITTERNS
- ____Great Blue Heron-A
- ____Green Heron-A
- ____Little Blue Heron-Ac, A
- ____Louisiana Heron-Ac, A
- ____Black-crowned Night Heron-A
- ____American Bittern-A
- ____Common Egret-O, A
- ____Snowy Egret-A
- ____Least Bittern-A

IBISES & FLAMINGOS
- ____Wood Ibis-A
- ____White-faced Ibis-A

SWANS, GEESE & DUCKS
- ____Whistling Swan-A
- ____Canada Goose-A, O
- ____Black Brant-Ac, A
- ____White-fronted Goose-A
- ____Snow Goose-A
- ____Ross' Goose-Ac, A
- ____Mallard-A
- ____Gadwall-A
- ____Pintail-A
- ____Green-winged Teal-A
- ____Blue-winged Teal-A
- ____Cinnamon Teal-A
- ____American Widgeon-A
- ____Shoveler-A
- ____Wood Duck-A
- ____Redhead-A
- ____Ring-necked Duck-A
- ____Canvasback-A
- ____Greater Scaup-A
- ____Lesser Scaup-A
- ____Common Goldeneye-Ac, A
- ____Barrow's Goldeneye-Ac, A
- ____White-winged Scoter-Ac,A
- ____Surf Scoter-Ac, A
- ____Bufflehead-A
- ____Ruddy Duck-A
- ____Common Merganser-A
- ____Red-breasted Merganser-A
- ____Hooded Merganser-A
- ____Fulvous Tree Duck-Ac, A

VULTURES
- ____Turkey Vulture-W

HAWKS, EAGLES & FALCONS
- ____Goshawk-G, W, R
- ____Sharp-shinned Hawk-G, W, R
- ____Cooper's Hawk-G, W, R
- ____Red-tailed Hawk-Wi
- ____Swainson's Hawk-O
- ____Rough Legged Hawk-Ac
- ____Ferruginous Hawk-O
- ____Red-shouldered Hawk-Ac,W,R
- ____Harris' Hawk-Ac
- ____Marsh Hawk-O, A
- ____Golden Eagle-O, Wi
- ____Bald Eagle -A
- ____Osprey -A
- ____Prairie Falcon -O
- ____Peregrine Falcon -O
- ____Pigeon Hawk-O, W
- ____Sparrow Hawk-O, R

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS
- ____Scaled Quail-O
- ____Gambel's Quail-O, R
- ____Mountain Quail-Ch, W
- ____Ring-necked Pheasant-*O
- ____White-winged Pheasant-*O
- ____Chukar-O,R,C
- ____Black Francolin *
- ____Gray Francolin *
- ____Crested Tinamous-*O
- ____Turkey-*W
- ____Sage Grouse-Sa

CRANES & RAILS
- ____Sandhill Crane-A, O
- ____Virginia Rail-A
- ____Sora Rail-A
- ____Common Gallinule-A
- ____Purple Gallinule-Ac, A
- ____American Coot-A, O

SHOREBIRDS
- ____Semi-palmated Plover-Ac, Sh
- ____Snowy Plover-Ac, Sh
- ____Golden Plover-Ac, Sh, O
- ____Upland Plover-O
- ____Killdeer-Sh, O, R
- ____Ruddy Turnstone-Ac, Sh
- ____Common Snipe-O, R, A
- ____Long-billed Curlew-Sh, O
- ____Whimbrel-Ac, Sh
- ____Spotted Sandpiper-Sh
- ____Willet-A, Sh
- ____Greater Yellowlegs-A, Sh
- ____Lesser Yellowlegs-A, Sh
- ____Pectoral Sandpiper-Ac, O, Sh
- ____Baird's Sandpiper-Sh, R
- ____Dunlin-Ac, Sh
- ____Least Sandpiper-A, Sh
- ____Long-billed Dowitcher-Sh
- ____Short-billed Dowitcher-Sh, A
- ____Stilt Sandpiper-A, Sh
- ____Western Sandpiper-A, Sh
- ____Marbled Godwit-Sh, O
- ____Sanderling-Ac, Sh
- ____American Avocet-A, Sh
- ____Black-necked Stilt-A, Sh
- ____Wilson's Phalarope-A, Sh
- ____Northern Phalarope-A

GULLS & TERNS
- ____Herring Gull-Sh, O, T, A
- ____California Gull-Sh, O, T, A
- ____Ring-billed Gull-Sh, O, T, A
- ____Bonaparte's Gull-A, Sh
- ____Forster's Tern-A, Sh
- ____Least Tern-Sh
- ____Caspian Tern-A
- ____Black Tern-A

PIGEONS & DOVES
- ____Band-tailed Pigeon-Ch, W
- ____White-winged Dove-O, G, R
- ____Mourning Dove-O, Wi
- ____Ground Dove-Ac
- ____Inca Dove-Ac
- ____Common Sand Grouse-*

CUCKOOS & ROADRUNNERS
- ____Yellow-billed Cuckoo-G, R
- ____Roadrunner-O

OWLS
- ____Barn Owl-O, G, W, C
- ____Screech Owl-W, R, G
- ____Flammulated Owl-Ac, W
- ____Great-horned Owl-W, Wi
- ____Snowy Owl-Ac, O
- ____Pygmy Owl-Ac, W
- ____Burrowing Owl-O
- ____Long-eared Owl-G, W, R
- ____Short-eared Owl-O
- ____Saw-whet Owl-G, W

GOATSUCKERS
- ____Whip-poor-will-Ac, W
- ____Poor-will-O, Ch, W
- ____Common Nighthawk-O, W, T
- ____Lesser Nighthawk-O

SWIFTS
- ____White-throated Swift-O, W, C
- ____Vaux's Swift-O, W

HUMMINGBIRDS
- ____Black-chinned Hummingbird-R,G,W
- ____Costa's Hummingbird-O, Sa, Ch
- ____Calliope Hummingbird-W, R
- ____Anna's Hummingbird-Ch, W
- ____Broad-tailed Hummingbird-R,Ch,W
- ____Rufous Hummingbird-R, W
- ____Allen's Hummingbird-Ac, R

KINGFISHERS
- ____Belted Kingfisher-A

WOODPECKERS
- ____Yellow-shafted Flicker-G, W
- ____Red-shafted Flicker-G, W
- ____Gila Woodpecker-O, G, R
- ____Acorn Woodpecker-Ac, W, G
- ____Lewis' Woodpecker-W
- ____Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-W, R
- ____Williamson's Sapsucker-W
- ____Downy Woodpecker-Ac, W, R, G
- ____Ladder-backed Woodpecker-O, G
- ____Hairy Woodpecker-W, R

FLYCATCHERS
- ____Eastern Kingbird-Ac, W, G
- ____Western Kingbird-O, R
- ____Cassin's Kingbird-Ac, O, W
- ____Scissor-tailed Flycatcher-Ac, O
- ____Ash-throated Flycatcher-W,Ch,O
- ____Wied's Crested Flycatcher-G,W,R
- ____Black Phoebe-R, C, T
- ____Say's Phoebe-O, C
- ____Least Flycatcher-Ac, W, G
- ____Traill's Flycatcher-R
- ____Hammond's-Dusky Flycatcher-W,R
- ____Gray Flycatcher-Sa, W, R
- ____Western Flycatcher-W, R
- ____Olive-sided Flycatcher-W, R
- ____Vermillion Flycatcher-R
- ____Western Wood Pewee-G, W

LARKS
- ____Horned Lark-O, Sa

SWALLOWS
- ____Violet-green Swallow-W, C
- ____Tree Swallow-A, R
- ____Bank Swallow-A
- ____Rough-winged Swallow-A, R
- ____Barn Swallow-A, O, T
- ____Cliff Swallow-R, C
- ____Purple Martin-W, R, T

JAYS, MAGPIES and CROWS
- ____Steller's Jay-W
- ____Scrub Jay-Ch, W
- ____Pinon Jay-W
- ____Black-billed Magpie-Sa, G, R, T
- ____Common Raven-Wi
- ____Common Crow-O, R, G
- ____Clark's Nutcracker-W

CHICKADEES & TITMICE
- ____Mountain Chickadee-W
- ____Plain Titmouse-G, W, R
- ____Verdin-Ch, R
- ____Common Bushtit-Ch, W

NUTHATCHES
- ____White-breasted Nuthatch-W, R
- ____Red-breasted Nuthatch-W
- ____Pygmy Nuthatch-W

CREEPERS
- ____Brown Creeper-W

DIPPERS
- ____Dipper (Water Ouzel)-A

WRENS
- ____House Wren-Ch, W, R, T
- ____Winter Wren-W, Ch
- ____Bewick's Wren-Ch, W, R
- ____Cactus Wren-O, Ch
- ____Long-billed Marsh Wren-A
- ____Canyon Wren-C
- ____Rock Wren-O, C

MOCKINGBIRDS & THRASHERS
- ____Mockingbird-Ch, R, T
- ____Catbird-Ac
- ____Brown Thrasher-Ac
- ____Bendire's Thrasher-O, G, W
- ____LeConte's Thrasher-O, R
- ____Crissal Thrasher-G, R
- ____Sage Thrasher-O, Sa, W, Ch

THRUSHES
- ____Robin-R, T
- ____Varied Thrush-Ac, W
- ____Hermit Thrush-W
- ____Swainson's Thrush-W, R
- ____Western Bluebird-O, W
- ____Mountain Bluebird-O, W
- ____Townsend's Solitaire-Ch, W
- ____Veery-Ac, G, W, R
- ____Wood Thrush-Ac

GNATCATCHERS & KINGLETS
- ____Blue-gray Gnatcatcher-Ch,G,W,R
- ____Black-tailed Gnatcatcher-O,G,Sa,R
- ____Golden-crowned Kinglet-Ac, W
- ____Ruby-crowned Kinglet-G,R,W

PIPITS
- ____Water Pipit-Sh, O

WAXWINGS
- ____Bohemian Waxwing-G,R,W
- ____Cedar Waxwing-G, R, W

SILKY FLYCATCHERS
- ____Phainopepla-O, G

SHRIKES
- ____Northern Shrike-Ac, O
- ____Loggerhead Shrike-O

STARLINGS
- ____Starling-O, G, T

VIREOS
- ____Bell's Vireo-G, R
- ____Gray Vireo-Ch, W
- ____Solitary Vireo-W
- ____Warbling Vireo-W
- ____Yellow Throated Vireo-Ac
- ____Hutton's Vireo-Ac, W, Ch

WARBLERS
- ____Black and White Warbler-Ac, W
- ____Orange-crowned Warbler-O, Ch,W
- ____Virginia's Warbler-Ch, G, W, R
- ____Tennessee Warbler-Ac, G, W
- ____Lucy's Warbler-R, G
- ____Yellow Warbler-R, G, T
- ____Myrtle Warbler-G, W, R
- ____Audubon's Warbler-G, W, R
- ____Black-throated Gray Warbler-G,W,R
- ____Townsend Warbler-W
- ____Black-throated Green Warbler-Ac,W
- ____Black-poll Warbler-Ac, W
- ____Hermit Warbler-W
- ____Grace's Warbler-Ac, W
- ____Ovenbird-Ac, W, G

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IN REPLY REFER TO

1792
(5400)
(N-057)

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Las Vegas District
P. O. Box 5400
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

(702) 385-6627

Decision Record/Rationale
EAR NV-050-9-33

Decision:

The Bureau of Land Management will approve the issuance of special permits to cut green firewood within the Las Vegas District, Caliente Resource Area. Permits will be issued to both individual and commercial cutters on a limited basis.

Rationale:

The Proposed Action does not conflict with the current Caliente Management Framework Plan (MFP) and is recommended in the revised Caliente MFP under Forestry Section 1.5.

The proposed Action is discussed in full in EAR NV-050-9-33.

Based on information presented in the EAR, this proposal does not constitute a major federal action adversely affecting the human environment. Therefore, it is recommended that an environmental statement need not be written. The proposed action has previously been discussed in Programmatic EAR #5000; 27-050-4-16, Vegetative Materials Disposal but to date has not been initiated.

The EAR is not being sent to the State Clearinghouse.

The following mitigating measures are included in the EAR.

1. All vehicular travel will be restricted to established roads and trails, and to flagged access routes.

2. To minimize soil erosion potential, slash will be left in place and unpiled. Understory vegetation will be left undisturbed unless the site has been deemed suitable for mechanical treatment and/or reseeding. Vehicles will be restricted to roads, trails, and flagged access routes.

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3. A maximum of four personal cutters and/or two commercial cutters will be allowed in the area at any given time. This will minimize the amount of additional pollutants introduced into the atmosphere as well as minimize the effect of noise and traffic on wildlife activity and movement.

4. To minimize effects on scenic values, buffer zones 100' wide will be left on either side of major roadways. Cutting areas will be layed out in abstract, irregular, noncontinuous patterns.

5. Road damage can be minimized by not allowing cutting during periods when snow is on the ground or when roads and soils are muddy. This should not adversely effect use of the area because persons cutting green firewood are more likely to work during summer and early fall.

6. Require cutters to pick up and remove all litter and trash in and around the cutting area.

Two additional stipulations are recommended concerning the actual cutting of live trees. These are:

1. Trees will be cut below the lowest limb in such a manner as to kill the tree.

2. Stumps will be cut 6" or less in height and flat across the top to eliminate possibilities of injury to animals, men, or equipment on sharp stobs.

Initiation of this type of program should have long-term benefits in terms of increased vegetative variety and programatic application of forest products management. It is felt that benefits of this action greatly outweigh any negative environmental impacts.

6/8/79
Date

William D. McNally, Acting Area Manager
Caliente-Virgin Valley Resource Area

I Concur:

6/18/79
Date

John S. Boyles, District Manager